Phoenix
OS/2
Society

extended
The magazine of the OS/2 community
attributes

W. Kemble
1884

Indelible Blue —
Outfitters For The
Information Frontier

keyphrases

In this issue

Huck marketing

by Bill Schindler, Editor-in-chief

I've seen it asked online (usually rhetorically) several times a month: Why would anyone want to use an operating system that crashed two or three times a day? And beyond that, why would someone say that it's a great operating system and argue that *you* should be using it, too?

The answer that's most often given is "great marketing." But that doesn't seem to be a satisfactory answer, because in a couple days, someone is asking the same questions again.

Maybe it's more human psychology than marketing.

In Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* there's a scene where a group of men realize that they've been suckered by a stage show put on by a pair of frauds. One of the men explains to the rest why they can't take immediate revenge on the frauds:

"We are sold—mighty badly sold. But we don't want to be the laughing-stock of this whole town, I reckon, and never hear the last of this thing as long as we live. *No.* What we want is to go out of here quiet, and talk this show up, and sell the *rest* of the town! Then we'll all be in the same boat. Ain't that sensible?"

Thus the two frauds end up making three times as much money. *And* they get away before the men can take their revenge.

Whenever I hear someone saying that *this* version is great because it only crashes half as much—that scene from *Huck Finn* pops into my mind. Then I start wondering if this person sincerely believes what they're saying or if they're trying to "sell the rest of the town."

That thought always makes me feel even less inclined to do what everyone else is doing. It completely chases away any warm secure feelings I might have entertained.

Most users of "alternative operating systems" seem to be the sort who either ignore or distrust the direction that the crowd takes. They don't want to be in the same boat as everyone else, especially when the boat looks suspiciously tippy. They question what it is they're buying instead of being "sold."

But asking questions doesn't work very well for someone who wants to follow the crowd.

The choice is studying the facts and making up your own mind versus following along and doing whatever everyone else is doing. Sometimes you miss the boat; sometimes you miss being "mighty badly sold."

Ain't that sensible? ⊛

Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc

A chat with Richard Seibt

by Esther Schindler

Esther Schindler is program chair of the Phoenix OS/2 Society. In real life, she's Technology Editor for ZD's *Sm@rt Reseller* magazine. You can reach her at esther@bitranch.com.

When the IBM Network Software Computing Division (IBM NCSD) did its last reorganization, almost four months ago, Richard Seibt was put in charge of OS/2. Seibt, now General Manager, OS/2 Business Unit, was the "Head Honcho" in charge of OS/2 in Germany, during the period when OS/2 seemed to make vast inroads in that country—and lots of OS/2 software came out of Germany. Seibt's appointment to the job of "Head OS/2 Guy, World-wide" caused many of us to get hopeful, all over again. Would there be a chance for us OS/2 users, again?

I wanted to know, too. So, with IBM's assistance, I found myself allotted a half hour of Seibt's time at the beginning of May. While preparing for the interview, I found myself humming Lou and Peter Berryman's song, "A chat with your Mom:"
When we sit down to have a chat
It's f-word this, and f-word that
I don't care how you young people talk to
*   one another*
But I don't want to hear you use
The f-word with your mother
Some of us are incorrigible.

Well, I figured, I could avoid the f-word… even if some OS/2 users cannot.

Following the IBM food chain

Seibt reports to Mike Lawrie. Last September, when he spoke to the Phoenix OS/2 Society, Lawrie was the guy in charge of OS/2. But he's now General Manager of the Network Computing Software Division (NCSD). Lawrie reports to John M. Thompson, who reports to Lou Gerstner.

IBM has four software divisions, in addition to NCSD; they include Tivoli, Lotus, and Software Solutions (for platform independent software, and application development). It's NCSD's job "to enable the network computing software model and get it to work."

Got that? There's going to be a quiz in the third period.

First, I should say that I like Seibt. He's a marketing guy, with his eye clearly on the "say the right thing when you're talking to the press, even if it's the ostensibly friendly press," but his heart seems to be in the right place.

Also, while he speaks English far better than I'll ever speak German (I don't get much beyond "bratwurst" and "saurbraten"), he has a strong enough accent that some of the quotes here sound awkward and foreign. Throw in a few grains of salt, as a result, though I tried to type as quickly and accurately as possible.

So what's the message?

The good news is that, for once, IBM isn't being self-contradictory. They're actually sticking to one message.

The (arguably) bad news is that the message is network computing and Java—topics that matter to some, but not all, of the Society membership.

For instance, I asked Seibt what he thought was most fun about his new job. I didn't really expect that he'd answer, "Short-sheeting Mike Lawrie's bed at the ritzy hotel," but I hoped for more than a standard PR message: "Talking to customers and telling them what we're going to do. Making sure that we can leverage their investment in OS/2 and move them to Java based network computing. It's exciting how the customers are buying into that strategy; they strongly believe that the world of the future has to be heterogeneous. … With the network computing model, we promise that we can lower that cost down to where they probably were with the mainframe and green screen some years ago."

Oh.

What, then, are your biggest challenges?

"To convince the multipliers, the people who write … from the analysts to the freelancers, that they are not writing 'OS/2 is dead'— because this is simply not true. We call on all [of] them to explain what we do, to get them excited, the same way our customers are excited about what we do."

Seibt added, "It's most of the time fun. People are preoccupied; they have a strong opinion and don't want to listen."

What has to happen for OS/2 to flourish and prosper?

Seibt replied, "We have to heavily invest in the ability to run Java applications on OS/2—the same way on the client/server and client. We need to further invest in our ability to manage clients from the server, and to extend that capability to different kinds of clients."

Today, IBM supports OS/2 clients on WorkSpace on Demand (WSOD). Soon, WSOD will support network computer and PowerPC clients, and, later on, Windows 95 clients.

Seibt added, "Later, next year we want to support Tier 1 devices—like smart phones, handheld devices, smartcards and [the] other devices coming up. …[Customers] want to use these handheld devices in the market, use smartcards to access applications on servers."

The PalmPilot? Well, it's on the list, but Seibt isn't willing to pick favorites quite yet.

What are the marketing plans for OS/2—by which I mean advertising, event sponsorship, and so forth, not product positioning.

"Most of the money we spend is directly to call on or work with our target segment—large customers—who invested heavily in OS/2. We want to work directly with them to migrate [them] to the Java application model. That doesn't mean we need expensive advertising campaigns. … We also have the Technical Interchange and other conferences for that customer segment."

He continued, "Whatever we do, we want to target our customer segment, large customers, and to combine our marketing with the Java message."

What about the banner ads we've seen on the Web? What about the full-page OS/2 ads in UK magazines? "Most of the ones you see are OS/2 and Java, to move away from the client/server application model to the Java application model. The message to OS/2 customers is that we want to work with them by using our people in the labs to migrate their first mission critical application from the client/server to the Java model. And we do that very successfully."

Yet, I pointed out, while the membership of the Phoenix OS/2 Society includes every kind of computer user, the majority are end-users who rely on the OS/2 client to run their small businesses, manage their home finances, and otherwise consider it their personal operating system. They've been worried about IBM's growing neglect of the OS/2 client. What does *their* future look like?

"The future of the user, who is using this as a single operating system… If this user has the same requirements as large customers, with reliability, utility, mission critical applications—not doing games, the latest multimedia stuff like flight simulators—[OS/2] will be an OS they can use. But at the end of the day, our target user is the large customer. We will not have the support capabilities for the single user and the individual."

He hastened to add, "With SmartSuite for OS/2 Warp 4, we have a productivity suite, that we haven't had before, so there's some advantage for them too."

Should those users just go away?

"We don't say that. If it's a small business with ten clients, they have all the skills to support the clients, or [can use] WSOD to lower the costs. Our business partners will perfectly support them."

Indeed? Where are those business partners (and users) supposed to go for training? Nobody offers OS/2 training, anymore. Learning Tree (for which I used to teach) can-

celled its OS/2 class. IBM has relegated OS/2 training to the back of the catalog, and most of the few classes offered are cancelled.

"With the ITSC, we are running worldwide education courses for our business partners. I'm surprised to hear that it's impossible to get a class for business partners. I have to look into this."

"We'll do the same [offer training] with the Warp Server release in '99. What we do is sufficient for business partners; this is the first time I've heard it's insufficient for them."

IBM has told OS/2 software developers to move to Java. Let me ask about the unspoken part of that suggestion: Why shouldn't OS/2 software developers write for OS/2?

"We believe that the OS/2 application model is, at the same time, a client/server application model. The business perspective for them is much more promising [with Java]. The client/server model is much more painful to support."

Seibt pointed out that, since 33% of worldwide applications are on Windows, and 67% are on other platforms such as Unix, mainframes like IBM 390, OS/400… "then it is more profitable for every ISV to write to Java because he can execute the application on any platform."

But what about exploiting the platform? To execute on every operating system, doesn't the developer have to write to the lowest common denominator?

Seibt acknowledged that "this is an issue," but continued, "We always have a little less when we start, but then we can grow much faster. The mainframe had much more to offer when we started [with client/server], and then the client/server grew faster. This is a quantum leap to something new. [It] is our responsibility as an industry to fix that. All the different applications are moving from the client to the server. It should be offered as a

kind of service offering, using the application on the server. This is a different model than selling packaged applications. If you want to sell packaged application, the Java model is probably not the perfect one—yet."

Will we ever see a Warp 5, by whatever name?

"We have decided, based on our customer requirements, that there is no request for a Warp 5 client."

(I thought: What am I? Chopped liver?)

"We deliver our new functions, like Communicator, with Software Choice. If there's a need in the future to bundle all these functions into a new release, we'll do that. At this time, we have not decided to do that."

Emphasizing the advantages of Software Choice, he added, "We can't force customers to migrate from one release to another. With Software Choice, the customer decides to implement or not-implement specific functions."

What can the OS/2 community do to make OS/2 more of a success?

"Think about Java, develop Java, identify themselves with this new application model. Support any activities around Java." ⓠ

IBM outlines road map for OS/2 Server family

IBM announced enhancements for the OS/2 Warp Server family of products improving system management and back-up and recovery capabilities. IBM also outlined plans for a new version of OS/2 Warp Server and the next release of Work-Space On-Demand (WSOD), IBM's server-managed client operating system.

IBM plans to introduce this next release into the OS/2 Warp Server family of products in early 1999 and will serve as IBM's entry level server platform for running e-business applications. IBM's new release of WSOD is also targeted for early 1999 and will offer customers support for a broader range of hardware devices.

For today's OS/2 Warp Server

The new update offers administrators management of Windows NT 4.0 clients, expanded hardware support, and added functionality such as continuous resource monitoring, utilization reports for all servers,

and report generation ranging from hourly to monthly.

New features included in OS/2 Warp Server's backup and recovery include large network administration and backup, and dual device backup set and removable media support.

The new features are available today from Software Choice, IBM's Internet software delivery site, at www.software.ibm.com/os2warp.

New versions

The next release of OS/2 Warp Server (code-named Aurora) is planned for beta availability in late 1998. It will be IBM's entry level e-business server and an ideal platform to help reduce the total cost of management with WorkSpace On-Demand. The new release will offer customers out-of-box support for Year 2000 and Eurocurrency—two critical issues businesses are facing today. It will also include a high-performance Journaling File System (JFS) offering faster performance, improved scalability, and enhanced

Web serving capabilities. General availability of Aurora is planned for early 1999.

The plans for the new release of WSOD include support of a broader set of hardware using standard IP protocols, allowing customers to continue to build upon their existing hardware investments. IBM also plans to provide additional pre-configured machine classes for hardware that has broad appeal to today's customers. One example of the extended pre-configured machine class support will be WSOD's support for select IBM Network Stations. Additional planned enhancements will focus on continued ease-of-use for administrators by enhancing WSOD's application installation and machine class creation tools. This release will also include Java 1.1.6 with support for additional releases as they become available. General availability is planned for the fourth quarter of 1998.

two warped

VOICE, Warpstock, and Comdex

by Judy McDermott

This month, I'll cover a few topics: what's been happening with VOICE (the Virtual OS/2 International Consumer Education), and an introduction to the work taking place for the next Warpstock, to be held in Chicago this fall. And finally, I'll share a few of my experiences from my first trade show experience, at Spring Comdex in Chicago.

Speak up! with Sam Detweiler

Several Speakup sessions have been hosted by VOICE and have been well supported by attendees.

Sam Detweiler, IBM Device Development, Senior Programmer and OS/2 Advisor on CompuServe, was the guest in April. Sam discussed OS/2 device driver development/support. Here's a little information that may be of interest.

SD: The IBM1S506.ADD driver that supports greater than 8.2 gigabytes is in final test, and I'm using [it] here on my machine as I type this note. We have a couple more problems to work out, and we're trying to get some errors from FP35/6 fixed as well. (I'm running 12.9 and 8.6 on an ABIT TX5 board).

Q: MWAVE cards have problems flushing the audio when using Dart.

SD: This is a known problem, and there is no workaround. Also at this time, there is no planned fix. I understand [that] MWAVE development on OS/2 is stabilized—Not what I *want* to say, but [it's] the facts. No functional enhancements [are] planned at this time.

Q: Do any audio drivers have enhancements coming? ([such as] full duplex support for Soundblasters)?

SD: Unlikely. The focus for OS/2 is the enterprise customer, and it is unlikely they will fund this development.

SD: Currently there is no plan for full DVD support. There is work going on to support DVD media for data.

Q: Are GRADD going to have features like on the fly resolution change or color depth? What about small fonts support and GRADD?

SD: Those are features that the developers would *love* to add, if we had a customer that wanted them. This is a very challenging time, there's tons of functions us developers would *love* to add, but the purse strings keep saying No.

Q: Since there is support for ZIP drives, what about the "read/write-protection" and "password" stuff provided by these drives? [For example,] the "standard" Zip-Tools don't work with these drivers.

SD: Well, I wrote a prototype of the protect and WPS protect functions to insure that the new interfaces worked. I am working with Iomega to get them released, but this hasn't happened yet.

Q: I'd like to know if there will be a "multi-user" file-system in some future—e.g. limit access on telnet-sessions.

SD: Man, did you guys practice for *all* the hard questions with bad answers or what? No, there is no plan for a multiuser filesystem for OS/2.

Q: I have been in meetings with IBM, in which it was stated that IBM's biggest consistent development funding is for device drivers. Is this true? And what types of drivers are being developed? How is I2O going to affect driver development and OS/2 in general?

SD: 1. Yes, DD work continues to be near, or at the top of the pile. I2O, which we were the very first to release drivers for, has promise, *if* the hardware vendors can do the work. This is *not* the cheap "throw it together from parts" stuff. I2O really helps when there is a heavy interrupt stream and you can off-load it by using a "deep intelligent" adapter... but then, this is nothing new. The I2O 1.3 spec level driver is on the DDPAK, and has been since October. We want to get the 2.0 level driver out too.

Q: What is the status of USB support under OS/2?

SD: Another one of the things on the development list, that is *really* bigger than expected... Well, there's a question of what it means really. We don't load drivers on the fly, but you need to [in order to] "properly" support USB... so, "properly/completely," probably never. Some level, I think so.

Q: Any word (at all) from VIA and their efforts to support OS/2 with their chipsets?

SD: Via remains unwilling to give technical support. They point at their manuals, but refuse to answer questions. They've been trying to make their own driver from our base, which we keep changing cause of the new drives/chipsets, etc.

I will help *any* hardware vendor that wants to write support for OS/2, and [I] *do*, every single day.

VOICE is planning a *Night with REXX* on June 15, 1998. So far, we have commitments from Dr. Dirk Terrell, OS/2 Supersite Administrator, and Wayne Swanson, Pillarsoft. Who knows, maybe we'll even get the authors of *Teach Yourself Rexx in 21 Days*! Visit www.os2voice.org for details.

Who's who at Warpstock 98

Got your bags packed yet? This should be another fantastic "reunion" for the OS/2 community. Last year, Warpstock was a tremendous success. This year's event has even more in store. Visit www.warpstock.org for details, and be sure to register early to take advantage of the excellent discounts.

You might be interested in the people behind Warpstock 98 this year. Tim Sipples is Chairman. Bill McLaughlin is Facilities Chair, and Illona Cowen is Program Chair. This month, let me introduce you to Illona.

Illona Cowen was born in Brooklyn, New York and raised across the country. Her father, Raymond, was a career military serviceman (US Army, then US Air Force) who worked for IBM in NYC in between the two, in 1955, in computer programming. Her mother, Jean, was an illustrator. A classic left side of brain versus right side of brain war waged in the household.

Illona started out as a graphic designer, but headed into computerized typesetting and design because "computers liked me" and they made sense to her. Now she's a network analyst, specializing in messaging systems.

Her dream job would involve doing exports of Scottish products (combining her love of Scotland with her love of shopping). Other major interests in her life include photography, embroidery, and medieval history. She manages to combine her talents in such ways as taking a picture she found, customizing it in a computer art program, importing it into her cross stitch chart program, printing it and then embroidering it.

The current "man" in her life is a white, half Siamese, chatty cat. "Prince Charming" is always, patiently, waiting at home for her.

She describes herself as independent, individualistic, stubborn, and loyal. She graduated from North Miami Sr. High in North Miami, Florida, and attended Temple University in Philadelphia.

Spring Comdex

I thought it was just me, and that vendors at Comdex had nothing to offer for OS/2 except Java. But when I talked to several attendees, they stated that this was one of the worst shows that they had attended. Although when asked specifics, they couldn't put their finger on why.

I guess Comdex has gotten so small that they combined it with Windows World this year and many were disappointed.

So I'll leave you with my closing thoughts.

*Twas the first day of Comdex when all
    through the house
All systems were booted awaiting the
    crowds
The audience sat silent and listened to Bill
    Gates
Awaiting the demo of Windows 98
When up on the stage the demo began,*

*Plug in the scanner and show all the fans
When what to their wondering eyes did
    appear,
But the Blue Screen Of Death and the
    audience cheered
But I heard them exclaim as they strolled
    out of site
Nothing has changed! Will they ever get it
    right!* ☻

How do you replace a DLL when it's in use?

by John Wubbel

A number of years ago, while I was working on the IBM OS/2 video support team, our group brainstormed for ways to apply fixes to OS/2 while a system was still running. As everyone knows, a DLL is locked by the operating system until a program that's using it terminates or until the operating system itself is shutdown.

IBM did not have a very solid product service procedure in place to cope with this; as a result, many problems occurred in the field because certain operating system DLLs had dependencies. As an example, if you replaced PMGPI.DLL you might also need to rebuild and replace PMGRE.DLL at the same time.

Video device drivers shared this problem. Change management for defect support was conducted very systematically by development, through the use of an IBM product called Configuration Management Version Control (CMVC). The build lab was built on the use of CMVC in order to do partial builds between major releases and catch all the dependencies.

The service procedure today allows you to apply a fix pack distribution of code by shutting down the operating system completely and booting from a couple of service diskettes; alternately, you can apply the service while the system is running and reboot. Upon reboot, any locked file processing is done to complete the servicing of the system. These two approaches are done primarily because of the difficulty in servicing the operating system DLLs in use while in a production mode.

Eventually, the video device drivers for each type of video adapter were packaged up separately and applied to a system independently of a base fix pak service procedure.

During this period of developing a fix pack strategy, a couple of us figured out a way to replace an operating system DLL without shutting down the system. The idea was never used, but it involved writing a program that would cache the target

DLL into memory and fool the system into thinking it was the one that was locked. The target DLL file was then unlocked and or renamed and the updated DLL could be copied over the original.

Another line of thinking involved ways to change video resolutions on the fly. For some video device drivers, changing resolutions

would mean using a different device driver DLL for an adapter that supported the desired resolution. So you would need to change the DLL, and you would have to mode switch the adapter to run the display in the new resolution.

(That probably means restarting the Workplace Shell, since the graphics engine would need to be

```
/*******************************************************
 *    DosReplaceModule - Replace an in use DLL or EXE
 *
 * This routine is called to replace an in use DLL or EXE
 * by calling Dos32ICacheModule to cache the contents of
 * the old module and then copying a new file over the
 * old module's file. Just in case something goes wrong,
 * a backup copy of the old module's file is made before
 * the new module is copied over it. If an error occurs,
 * the backup copy is used to replace the bad new copy of
 * the module.
 *
 * ULONG DosReplaceModule(register char *pszNewModule,
 *                        register char *pszOldModule,
 *                        register char *pszBackupModule)
 *
 * If pszNewModule or pszBackupModule are NULL, then the
 * appropriate functionality is not performed. With both
 * of these NULL, then the result is just to cache and
 * close the file.
 *
 *   ENTRY
 *     pszOldModule - name of the module to replace
 *     pszNewModule - name of the module to replace the old
 *                    module
 *     pszBackupModule - backup module name
 *
 *   EXIT
 *     0 - Successful
 *
 *   Otherwise, the error code returned by DosICacheModule,
 *   DosMove, or DosCopy.
 */
#define INCL_32
#define INCL_DOS
#define INCL_ERRORS
#include <os2.h>
#include <stdio.h>
extern int _System Dos32ICacheModule( char *fname );
APIRET APIENTRY DosReplaceModule(
        register char *pszNewModule,
        register char *pszOldModule,
        register char *pszBackupModule)
{
```

```
    APIRET rc;
/* Cache the old module. */
  if (pszOldModule)
    rc = Dos32ICacheModule(pszOldModule);
/* Make a backup copy of the the old module by renaming
 * it to backup module. If this fails, return the error.
 */
  if (!rc && pszBackupModule)
  {
    DosDelete( pszBackupModule );
    rc = DosMove( pszOldModule, pszBackupModule );
    if (rc == ERROR_NOT_SAME_DEVICE)
      rc = DosCopy( pszOldModule, pszBackupModule, 0);
  }
/* Now copy the new module to a file with the same name
 * as the old module. If this fails, try to put things
 * back to the way they were before. If the last DosMove
 * fails, the user is in trouble. The contents of
 * pszOldModule will be undefined. ERROR_MODULE_CORRUPTED
 * is returned to indicate this.
 */
  if ((!rc) && (pszNewModule))
  {
    rc = DosCopy( pszNewModule, pszOldModule,
                  DCPY_EXISTING);
    if (rc)
    {
      if (pszBackupModule)
      {
        rc = DosMove( pszBackupModule, pszOldModule);
        if (rc == ERROR_NOT_SAME_DEVICE)
          rc = DosCopy( pszOldModule, pszBackupModule, 0);
        if (rc == ERROR_ACCESS_DENIED)
          rc = 0;
      }
    }
  }
  return(rc);
}
/*************************************************************/
```

reinitialized as well. But that's another story.)

DLL replacement involved some research into the OS/2 internals, coming up with a design, and then testing the original theories to prove them out. A small test case program was written to show that it could be done.

The first step in the replacement process is to verify that the file to be replaced actually exists on the system. This is done using a call to DosQueryPathInfo(…). If the file doesn't exist, it's a new file.

The second step is to check the attribute flags of the target file. If it's read-only, remove the read-only attribute. If the file is new, a DosCopy() is done on the DLL and you are finished. However, if the copy fails as a consequence of the file

being locked, then a special routine is called to cache the DLL as demonstrated in the sample code.

The function is called:
DosReplaceModule(szSourceFile, szTargetFile, NULL);

After the copy operation or the call to DosReplaceModule(), if the original file attributes changed, then they would be restored before going on to replace the next DLL file.

The secret to replacing a DLL or an EXE is in the use of an internal OS/2 API that is, of course, not publicly documented. The name of the API is Dos32ICacheModule. The code in Figure 1 demonstrates the use of the API.

An undocumented DosReplaceModule is also implemented in OS/2, however it does not work as reliably as the routine shown here. Also, the OS/2 DosReplaceModule's parameters are in a different order. The name has been reused for the function shown here, since it's both convenient and a logical name.

A special thanks to Glen Fine for developing this code and showing me how it's done. ◖

Breaking the cycle

by Dick Krueger

In last month's column, I discussed the lack of real choice in the consumer PC operating system market. By the time you read this, the U.S. Department of Justice and several states' Attorneys General may have had some success in loosening Microsoft's death grip on the industry. If so, there may yet be hope for consumer choice in operating systems. The enabler for such a competitive environment is Java.

The typical PC user buys Windows applications for one reason: most of the application software available at retail is written for Windows. Most of the application software available at retail is written for Windows for one reason: the typical PC user has Windows installed. It's a vicious cycle that's difficult to break. If someone offers a non-Windows application, who'll buy it? If you buy a Windows application, what operating system can you use to run it, except Windows?

The new applications

The first step in breaking the cycle is to deliver Windows applications that compete, feature for feature, with today's front-runners, but don't require Windows in order to run. That's exactly what Java is designed to do. A well-designed, robust office suite that runs on a fast, robust implementation of the Java virtual machine can compete in the Windows software marketplace. It may take another year or two to get there, but it can happen.

That first step, successfully executed, breaks the dependency on the Windows API.

Offering alternatives

Then comes the second step: offering consumers alternatives to Windows.

Now, do consumers really want alternatives? Put yourself in the typical PC buyer's shoes for a moment. You walk into CompUSA. You look at all the different machines available. You choose Acer or Compaq, Pentium w/MMX or Pentium II, 32

> **Do consumers really want alternatives?**

or 64 MB, laser or deskjet printer, 15 or 17 inch monitor. Then the friendly sales clerk asks which operating system you want. Your response? "Whatever I need to run the accounting software I picked up in aisle 3."

If it's a Windows program, you don't really have a choice, and probably don't want to know that you don't have a choice. If it's a Java program, and you do have a choice, you're probably still just interested in running that accounting program successfully, so who cares about the operating system?

Suppose the clerk told you that you could save $50 by choosing another operating system. It will run your accounting package faster than in Windows, it lets you surf the 'Net, you can send and receive email, and

you can run the second-best selling office suite on the market, but it won't let you run some of the popular game software. Interested?

Can this really happen? Well, step one in this scenario is already happening. Software companies are producing Java applications and the Java virtual machines are steadily improving. Microsoft's attempts to coopt Java don't appear to be going anywhere. The second step is the really tough one.

Java applications should become more common over time. Other operating systems, such as Linux and BeOS, are already available. Linux ought to be a good alternative choice; it's essentially free. What's to keep PC vendors from offering it? Fear. As long as Microsoft continues to wield clout in the industry, most PC vendors will continue to toe the line with them. On the other hand, if the DOJ does succeed in loosening Microsoft's death grip, we may once again have a choice.

So where's OS/2?

Will that choice include OS/2? It's not likely. And for two reasons:
○ The OS/2 brand name carries baggage in the retail world that few vendors would be willing to deal with.
○ IBM is unlikely to let it happen. Does that mean OS/2 is really dead? No, I think there's still life left in the ol' gal. Next month I'll posit some of the possible futures I see for OS/2. ☺

June meeting
You're loading OS/2 on a *what*?!
by Esther Schindler

Savvy readers of *extended attributes* may recall a small notice in the "new and improved" column several months ago, describing Connectix' Virtual PC software package that lets you load DOS, Windows 3.x, or Windows 95 on an Apple Macintosh. I pointed out that the software would let you load *any* Intel-based OS onto the Macintosh—which includes OS/2.

We weren't the only folks to notice this. A few months back, at the Southern California OS/2 User Group, the program chair loaded and ran OS/2 on his Macintosh—along with several OS/2 applications. By every report, a good time was had by all.

So the Phoenix OS/2 Society will shamelessly copy the idea. On Tuesday, June 9, the general meeting will be a "home-grown" hands-on *Installing OS/2 On A Mac.*

Is this useful? Perhaps not. But it's a fun thing to do, and harkens back to the pure joy of computing: *Let's do it, because we can!*

Bill and I will bring along our own Macintosh on which to attempt The Software Load. Though, if you have a Macintosh that runs faster than our rapidly-aging PowerMac, please contact us to arrange to bring that one, instead. Our computer is one model slower than the officially-supported models, and in test installs it's had problems during the graphical part of the installation; we think it's all a plot to make us consider purchasing a new Macintosh G3.

Coming events

While we don't have the dates nailed down just yet, POSSI does have a few vendors who have agreed to strut their stuff in the next few months.

○ 3Com says it will provide us with a speaker (for both the 3Com networking and US Robotics modem lines).

○ Stardock will be releasing a new OS/2 application late this summer; Brad Wardell has promised to return to Phoenix to show it off.

○ IBM's Steven King has promised to demonstrate the next version of Warp Server (code-named Aurora) to Phoenix OS/2 Society members, as soon as it's feasible to do so.

Before those meetings, however, we have a special event to hold this summer. We'll have the Third Mostly Annual FOOBAR (Friends Of Os/2 Barbeque And Revelry) in August, in lieu of a general meeting.

(It's too darn hot, then, to be able to convince an out-of-town vendor to come to Phoenix.)

At press time, Robert Rosenwald and Dick Krueger were duking it out over whose house will host the event. You'll have to check the next issue of *extended attributes* to learn who won. ◑
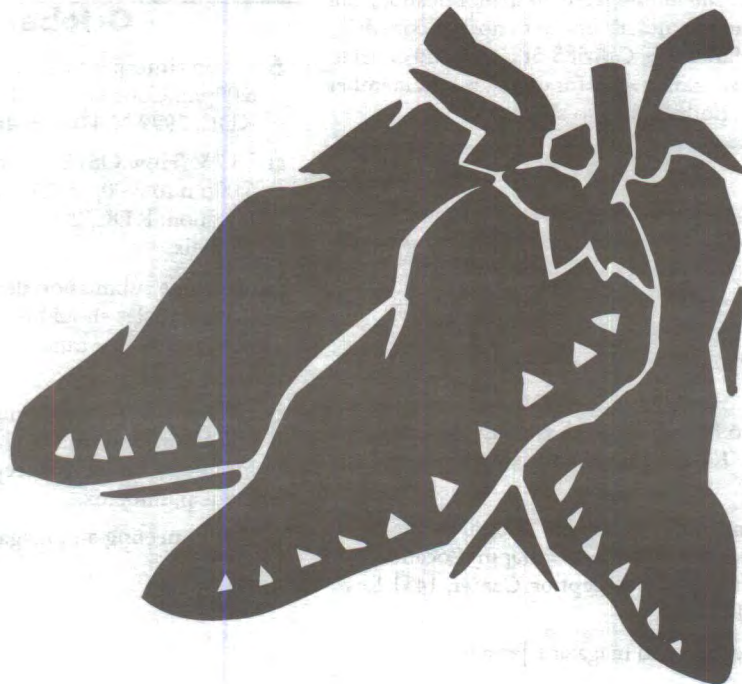
history

Coming events

This is a list of events scheduled by the Phoenix OS/2 Society and other OS/2 user groups. Unless otherwise noted, active members may attend any scheduled event for free. (Other groups may have different attendance policies. Please check their Web sites for information about meeting schedules and attendance policies.)

Meeting notes

For the latest updates on the Society's event calendar, check the Web site at http://www.possi.org.

For meeting information and other queries, call the Phoenix OS/2 Society's voice mail at 602-949-4341.

If you have suggestions, ideas, or comments on the content of general meetings, contact the Society's Program Chair, Esther Schindler, at the general meetings or send email to esther@bitranch.com.

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

June 1998

2 net.sig (Internet SIG). Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Mike Briggs. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

2 HOW (How OS/2 Works) GIG. Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Lyle Wilson. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

5 Magazine submission deadline for July issue. Articles should be sent to editor@possi.org. For other arrangements, call 602-585-5852.

9 General meeting; OS/2 on a Mac? Meeting is 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Q&A session is 6:30pm to 7:00pm. Location: Mountain Preserve Reception Center, 1431 East Dunlap, Phoenix.

27 Board meeting and magazine prep. Meeting is 10:00am to 1:00pm. Eat a brunch, learn about the inner workings of the Society, and help get *extended attributes* ready to mail. Location: Bill and Esther Schindler's house in north Scottsdale, 9355 E Mark Lane. Call 585-5852 or send email to esther@bitranch.com for directions. Remember to bring a potluck dish to share, too.

July 1998

5 Magazine submission deadline for August issue. Articles should be sent to editor@possi.org. For other arrangements, call 602-585-5852.

7 net.sig (Internet SIG). Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Mike Briggs. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

7 HOW (How OS/2 Works) GIG. Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Lyle Wilson. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

14 General meeting. Meeting is 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Q&A session is 6:30pm to 7:00pm. Location: Mountain Preserve Reception Center, 1431 East Dunlap, Phoenix.

25 Board meeting and magazine prep.

August 1998

4 net.sig (Internet SIG). Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Mike Briggs. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

4 HOW (How OS/2 Works) GIG. Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Lyle Wilson. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

5 Magazine submission deadline for September issue. Articles should be sent to editor@possi.org. For other arrangements, call 602-585-5852.

? FOOBAR (Friends of OS/2 Barbeque And Revelry). Location: Rosey's or Dick's house.

22 Board meeting and magazine prep.

September 1998

1 net.sig (Internet SIG). Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Mike Briggs. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

1 HOW (How OS/2 Works) GIG. Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Lyle Wilson. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

5 Magazine submission deadline for October issue. Articles should be sent to editor@possi.org. For other arrangements, call 602-585-5852.

8 General meeting. Meeting is 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Q&A session is 6:30pm to 7:00pm. Location: Mountain Preserve Reception Center, 1431 East Dunlap, Phoenix.

26 Board meeting and magazine prep.

October 1998

6 net.sig (Internet SIG). Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Mike Briggs. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

6 HOW (How OS/2 Works) GIG. Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Lyle Wilson. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

5 Magazine submission deadline for November issue. Articles should be sent to editor@possi.org. For other arrangements, call 602-585-5852.

13 General meeting. Meeting is 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Q&A session is 6:30pm to 7:00pm. Location: Mountain Preserve Reception Center, 1431 East Dunlap, Phoenix.

26 Board meeting and magazine prep.

Meeting locations

General meetings are held at the Mountain Preserve Reception Center, 1431 East Dunlap, Phoenix.

From the Black Canyon, exit at Dunlap and head east. From the Squaw Peak, exit at Northern. Go west to 12th Street, turn right and go north to Dunlap, turn right, and it's two blocks up on the right.

The "How OS/2 Works General Interest Group" and the Internet SIG (net.sig) meet at Knowledge Development Center, 2999 N 44th St, Suite 400. That's just north of Thomas, in the building with the green dome. Plenty of free parking space is available in the garage behind the building. ℘
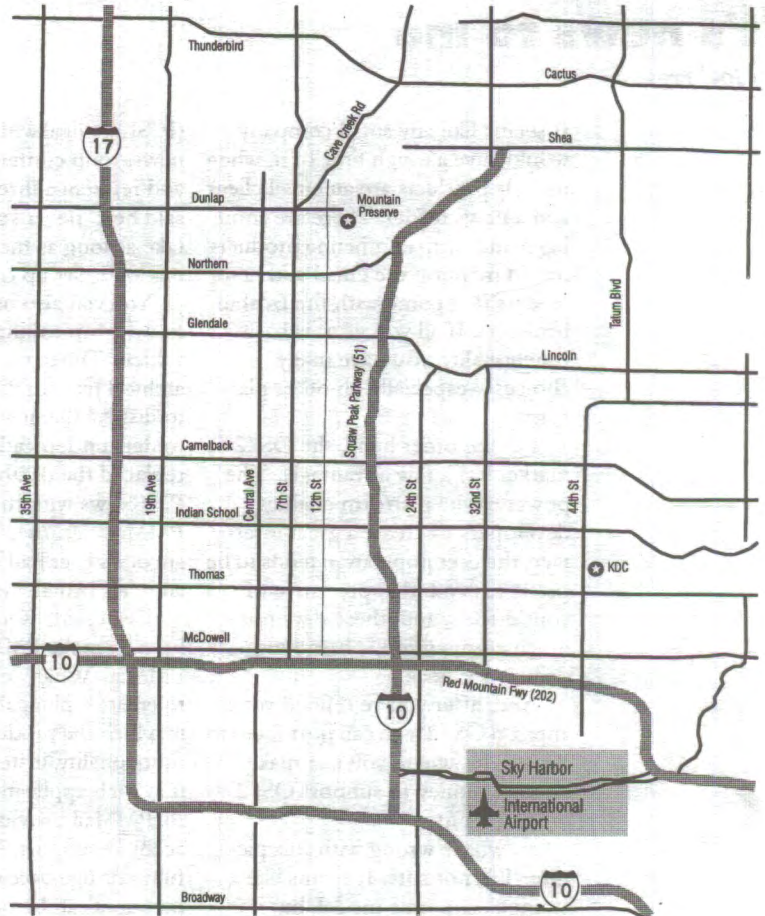
SIG news

net.sig

by Mike Briggs <mike@bbz.net>

During the last net.sig we discussed domain names. We looked into how to check to see if the one you want is taken, and the cost and procedure for registering a name. Email filters and spam avoidance were talked about again. Netscape's email is causing some users problems, and we will look into that next meeting. ℘

It's news to me

by Joel Frey

It seems like any small company would have a tough time of it, when its only products are an email client and a news reader. There are some big names with competing products, not to mention the email and news readers that come with the freebie browsers. If all you want is basic functionality, you have many choices—especially on other platforms.

On the other hand, the OS/2 market has a few advantages. The power of the platform enables developers to create a great interface, the user population tends to be pretty savvy and appreciative of your efforts, and, these days not much competition is breathing down your neck.

And, after you've refined your apps on OS/2, you can port them to a platform where you can make enough money to support OS/2 development.

So what's wrong with this picture? I'm not sure. It seems like a strange economic model, but it works for me since I'm one of those OS/2 users.

It apparently works for South-Soft's Robert Novitskey and Evan Goldring, a.k.a. BoB and Icon, who have been quite successful with their products, PMMail and PMINews. In fact they aren't just "of South-Soft;" they *are* SouthSoft.

Mail bonding

I've been using PMMail on my own system for a few years now. I've found it to be excellent, from the day I installed it, which was version 1.2 or thereabouts.

To be fair, I'd only used Eudora and UltiMail Lite before that, so my expectations weren't too high to begin with. I used PROFS on VM before email was part of the popular culture; it's amazing how primitive it seems now. I also use Microsoft Exchange at work and I must say, in the interest of fairness, that it's, well, adequate.

SouthSoft's news reader, PMINews, inherited many of the features of PMMail including its filtering engine, and you can use their Internet Content Search Language

(ICSL) to deal with the sheer bulk of newsgroup content. It has subject and reference threading, and Evan said he's "never seen it make a mistake as long as the reference information is set up correctly."

You can also use drag-and-drop to categorize things into PMMail folders. The new version uses a hierarchical tree similar to that in PMail to display the newsgroups with the folders underneath. They also replaced the database engine in PMINews with the one from PMMail because, "I don't know if anyone's ever had a crash with that" and "it's brutally fast."

Evan said, "Our big push has been to make PMINews look like PMMail. What we're striving for is to create a pluggable architecture" in which the products share internal functionality, instead of duplicating it in each application.

PMMail provides multiple account support. Each account is fully configurable in its settings, and accounts can be open in parallel. Evan used an example of separate personal and professional email accounts in which he invokes the spell-checker automatically for the "professional" account but not for the personal one; the spell check is too time-consuming for the volume of personal emails he sends every day.

It also provides support for PGP version 6. It has a complete contact manager and pops-up selected address entries with a right mouse-button click, which is one of my favorite features, even if I do have to suspend XIT to use it. Addresses can also be shadowed in other books which is particularly nice when you're not sure which book to put one in.

Attitude

When you listen to these guys, one thing that really comes across is the attention to detail, and their concern for performance and ease of use. This is as important as the features, when considering a software purchase. I get the impression that if they discover a problem, they'll do everything they can to address it in

the next version if they can't fix it now. And they're not a bit shy about acknowledging their mistakes and performing a major overhaul to correct them.

Evan and Icon made it very clear that they are committed to the OS/2 platform, even if they are making money from the Windows version. When people ask them if they are abandoning OS/2, they point out, "in fact, the move to Windows is doing the exact opposite; it's affording us the time and money to put a lot into 2.0."

I'm somewhat amused that anything for Windows has "PM" as part of its name, but that's the nature of product identity. I've been trying to figure out if PM could be an acronym for something else in that case, but I can't get beyond "P" which I'm certain stands for "Pseudo." You figure it out.

Frankly, I'm glad they have a Windows version, because it has become increasingly difficult for me, for professional reasons, to use OS/2 exclusively. PMMail is one application I would hate to be without under Windows. From what I could see, it looked like the real thing. However, it would be nice to see a package price, including both versions, when PM Mail 2.0 is released for OS/2.

At the time of our meeting in early April, Bob and Icon were preparing to release both PMMail 1.96 for OS/2 and PMMail98 2.01. They also announced that PMMail Version 2 was in the works, and would be the first upgrade for which they have charged in three years. They reviewed their plans for 2.0 in detail, which included many subtle ease-of-use and functional enhancements, some of which are already included in PMMail98.

Evan said it should be obvious that this was their first presentation, but it wasn't obvious to me. They did have more material to cover than time allowed, but that happens even to experienced presenters. Otherwise, they did a great job. I'm just wondering how they got this far without doing presentations. ◖

I enjoyed Esther Schindler's article, "The Entrepreneural Spirit" in *extended attributes* (May, 1998). Although I bought the game as soon as I saw it in our local CompUSA, it has not been able to command my attention until 2:30am.

The main reason is that even the grey-scale version of the screenshot that you include looks clearer than what I see when I start the game. I am using an ELSA Gloria Synergy (acquired after seeing a favorable report in *extended attributes*), that has done a good job on everything else (the monitor is a Princeton Ultra 15, which was good enough for the ATI card that came with the system—but I will be tempted to replace it if the Asian financial crisis brings SONY prices down). To complete the picture, my processor is a Pentium Pro 180.

All pictures in the game are very grainy, and there is significant color distortion. For example, the help screen is unreadable because the background is too dark. Similarly, the background on the buttons on the main game screen is so dark that the labels on the buttons cannot be read easily (the clarity of this aspect of the screenshot in your article caught my eye immediately). I can view the basic *.pcx file in my ENT directory in pmjpeg, and they show none of the distortion that appears when viewed in the game. I also note that the palette of colors for the various players are all vaguely red except for one pale green. Have you heard of any other problems of this nature?

The problem is probably DIVE related, but Stardock could not explain the images I sent them. There are some comments in the ELSA readme file about problems in this area, but they don't appear to be written very fluently (I should look at the German version—it might be easier to understand). I have written to them, but not yet received a response.

Although my productivity is increased by not being able to play this game, I am curious about what is causing it to fail, and would like to run further experiments. Classic REXX would be best, since some things on my desktop don't get along with Object REXX, and I don't use C or C++ enough to figure out how to get g++ working (or to justify buying another compiler). If I uncover anything (other than my own stupidity), I would be glad to share it with others in a suitable forum.

Richard Bumby

---

press release
PowerQuest ships Drive Image 2.0

PowerQuest Corp. released Drive Image 2.0 and Drive Image Professional 2.0. The upgrade includes significant new features: graphical interface, enhanced removable media support, the ability to extract individual files from within an image, and the ability to resize images to fit smaller drives. Also included are more technology from PowerQuest's award-winning PartitionMagic, and a new security feature, ImageShield, which allows users to password protect important image files.

Drive Image and Drive Image Professional were designed with two different markets in mind. Drive Image is designed for the small office or home user who has a need to upgrade to a new hard drive, or perform a full system backup for disaster recovery. The Professional version allows corporate, government and education IS managers to create an image file of an entire hard disk, place it on a network or CD-ROM and then restore the image file to set up any number of workstations. Both versions allow a user to store a hard-drive image on removable media, such as a Jaz, Zip, or SyQuest drive.

"This new version of Drive Image includes many new customer-driven features," says Mike Harris, PowerQuest product marketing manager. "Jaz, Zip and SyQuest drivers have been preloaded for convenience. Anyone looking for a tool to protect and restore their data safely and easily in the event of a disaster, should look to Drive Image."

Drive Image and Drive Image Professional 2.0 are currently available through PowerQuest and the retail channel. The Professional license is a one-time charge that allows unlimited use per technician. Those who purchase the Professional license will also receive a Professional license version of PowerQuest's PartitionMagic in the Drive Image package. Both versions include a free 30-day upgrade.

PowerQuest is a leading developer of hard-disk management software for network servers as well as desktop computers. For more information, see PowerQuest's home page at www.powerquest.com call 1-800-379-2566 or +1-801-437-8900, or send an email message to magic@powerquest.com.

Learning about URL Templates
by Judy McDermott

Customize

Isn't it annoying when you know that you have a site bookmarked, but you just can't seem to find it in the list of "My 1,001 favorite bookmarks"?

You'll be glad to learn that OS/2 Warp 4 contains templates that can help you categorize and customize your favorite sites. Let's start by opening the OS/2 System folder, then the Templates folder. This contains the folder *Templates for Internet.* Open this folder, and you're on your way.

Alt; then click anywhere on WPS. Anyway, you now have your own URL folder.

When you open the folder, you'll see three columns: Icon, Title, and Uniform Resource Locator. I didn't mention the blank column because when the Title reaches a certain length in characters, the blank column is no longer present.
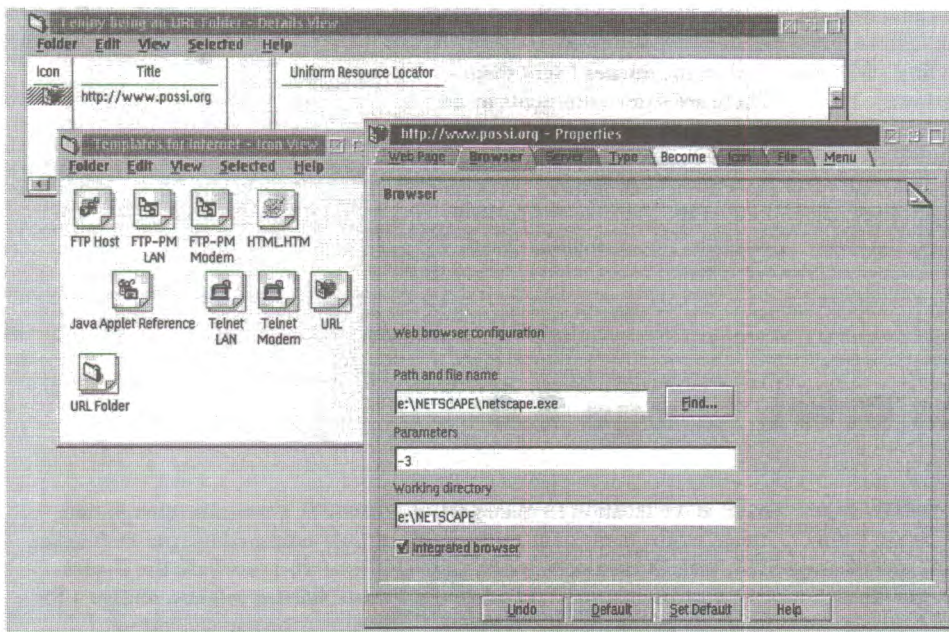
URL Template

Now you're ready to add your favorite URLs to the folder, by creating a URL object that points to your favorite Web site. You can also cus-

Drag the URL template to the URL folder and drop. The Properties notebook will open. Type the URL in the blank field of the *Web* section.

If you selected Netscape/2 as your default browser, then that is used with the URL object you create. For some sites that I visit, I prefer to go there, get my information, and be done with it, so I use the text-based browser, lynx/2. To change browsers, go to the *Browser* section, and type in the path to the alternate browser; put the URL in the Parameters field. If the browser can accept command line arguments, enable *Integrated Browser.* If this option isn't selected, you won't be able to configure the *Server* section.

Go to the *Icon* section to rename the URL or you may rename as we did with the URL folder. The *File* section contains three pages. Whatever text you enter in the Subject and Comments fields will become a part of the extended attributes for that object.

By selecting Edit, Create Another, or RMB clicking on an existing object and selecting Create Another, a new object is created just as if you had created it by dragging and dropping the URL template. You can also add additional folders by selecting Folder then Create Another or RMB on an existing folder then Create Another. You can also drag and drop URLs directly from Netscape/2 into customized folders or the URL folder itself. ◖

URL Folder

The URL Folder stores a listing of your favorite Web site addresses (URLs).

Select the URL Folder, then click on the right mouse button (RMB). Click on the URL Folder template, and drag it to the Workplace Shell (WPS) or another folder—then drop. You now have a new object, named "URL Folder." To rename the folder, RMB click on the object, select Properties from the menu, and go to the *Icon* section to rename. You can also rename the object by left-clicking (Left mouse button, or LMB) on the object while pressing

tomize it to use the browser of your choice, instead of the default browser in the original template. Categorize by adding new URL Folders.

Tip: If you're using Netscape/2, before you use the URL template, open the Property settings and put a ‑ 3 in the Parameters field. When you do this, Netscape/2 version will report to Web sites that it's version 3.0 instead of 2.02. As you may have discovered, some Web sites refuse to work with what they think are "earlier versions" of Netscape, even though it's mostly the version numbers that are different.

The REXXLA report

by Terry Alan Fuller <taf@pgmguild.com>

The REXX Language Association (REXXLA) held its annual Symposium in Durham, NC, May 11–13, 1998. The Symposium gathers together REXX developers and users for the exchange of information. There were formal presentations and lots of informal discussion. I thought I'd share a few of my experiences… and perhaps follow up next month with more.

The association's new President, Chip Davis, organized a roster of sessions and presenters which covered a fair swath of the REXX territory: Mainframe (VM & MVS), PC (OS/2, DOS, Linux, Windows 95/NT). Presenters and attendees came from far and wide: Mike Cowlishaw, the original author of REXX, came from England; Object REXX developers from Germany, and users—IBM and otherwise—came from Australia and all over the US.

On the down side, the erosion of OS/2 seems to be proceeding. Ingo Holder, an Object REXX developer from IBM's Boeblingen lab (the current home of REXX development) gave his first presentation on the use of OODialog, a GUI class library expressly for Object REXX. OODialog gives REXX access to the full complement of GUI controls (such as windows, entry fields, list boxes, and comboboxes). The tool is powerful and seemed to be very well implemented… but, alas, is available only on Windows 95/NT. Worse still, there's no budget for an OS/2 port.

NetRexx

Mile Cowlishaw's presentation covered NetRexx, a REXX-like language which compiles to Java source, and which, in turn, compiles into Java code bytes using the standard Java compiler.

Because it uses a REXX-based syntax, NetRexx offers a much less formidable learning curve than "straight" Java. (Java is very much a C-based language.)

The NetRexx compiler is, itself, written in NetRexx, and thus will run on any system which supports the Java Virtual Machine.

Since Mike's introduction of NetRexx at the 1996 RexxLA in Austin (my first RexxLA Symposium, too) several releases of the language have emerged. They're distributed "electromagically" to users on the internal IBM network and via the Internet. Mike maintains a REXX Web site, and the current NetRexx compiler is available there for download.

Also since 1996, Mike wrote a book: *The NetRexx Language.* This latest book, very much in the same vein as his earlier *The Rexx Language*, defines the language.

Next year, the Tenth Annual REXX Symposium's proposed location is SLAC (the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center) in Palo Alto. SLAC is the birthplace of the REXX LA (nothing to do with Los Angeles, a point repeatedly made by several members). Early plans call for the event to be on May 3–5, 1999. All Rexxperts (and wannabees) mark your calendars now!

News and rumors

Object REXX is scheduled to be released for AIX sometime this year. That's probably not too earthshaking for Phoenix OS/2 Society members, but very welcome news to yours truly, who's been struggling with a buggy PRPQ interpreter for a long time.

Education of a naif: Since the interpreter is given away with IBM operating systems, and since IBM (like most companies) is driven by dollars, REXX development organizations suffer pretty badly in comparison with other language products. Until the Windows 95/NT interpreter releases, IBM's sole source of REXX-related revenue was the MVS REXX compiler!

Presentations

David Both, from Millenium Technology recounted his experiences at MCI using REXX to automate the management of an OS/2 network. The OS/2 network ran too well; it was neglected, its attendants transferred elsewhere, and (eventually) it came to be regarded as a dead end system, after which assignments were avoided.

Brian Marks, Formcroft Ltd, is free at last from management oversight in the expenditure of his time. He's working on "the smallest, fastest REXX interpreter ever built." At my last REXX Symposium, Brian was part of the team which shepherded the first ANSI specification for REXX.

The near-term goal is one million clauses per second, as measured by REXXCPS. His first measurement (with enough support to run REXXCPS, but not a full ANSI-spec interpreter) shows about half that amount on his 200MHz Pentium machine. He claims that, unlike other software developers, he's not just going to wait for 400MHz hardware.

Want more?

There's more information where this came from. Let the *extended attributes* editor know that you're interested, and I'll continue next month with more reports from the conference. Ⓠ

A computer, an operating system, and a man named

by Peter Skye, Southern California OS/2 User Group

Peter Skye says, "I'm a pulp writer, just like the guys who wrote about Billy The Kid and Johnny Ringo 140 years ago. My heroes carry a 586, not a 45, but I'm doing the same thing those writers did. A lot of people used to read pulp; now they watch it on TV. I'm reinventing the wheel, and nothing I write is sacred."

Where do you go when you really want to learn?

The library? Their computer books tend to be a little stale.

How about a newsgroup? You'll certainly find a lot of basic tips and answers, but not a lot of new technology.

Why not buy a couple of books on the subject? Perhaps, but you have to do an awful lot of reading to learn a concept or two, and it gets pretty pricey if you like to learn on a regular basis.

Ahh, there we are.

I should have thought of it earlier. It's right there on the screen in front of me.

It's current, it's free, it's as technical as you can get: an online technology magazine.

Carsten Whimster is Editor-In-Chief of *EDM/2*, *the Electronic Developer Magazine* (www.edm2.com) for the OS/2 world. Carsten is a top-notch code writer and a dedicated journalist. He's an OS/2 enthusiast and a stalwart renaissance man. He's a hunter-gatherer and a visionary strategist.

He's making sure that OS/2 technologists, the world over, have a place to come and learn.

Gap the plugs on your Pentium II

Want to know something new?

I'm not talking about the release of a video driver upgrade, or how to increase the number of files you're allowed to have open. I mean technology.

Take the partitions on your hard drive. Sure, you can run FDISK, or you can go a little bit further and run Partition Magic. But what's *really* going on? Carsten got Andrew Pitonyak to write an EDM/2 article on this very subject, complete with sample C code; that article explains the finer points of disk drive dementia such as how to put primary partitions inside extended partitions, and how to write software that walks through the entire partition table. *That*'s technology.

Or, how about writing critical timing applications on an OS/2

platform? Timur Tabi, author of OS/2's TIMER0 device driver, presented "High resolution timing under OS/2" in a recent issue, courtesy of Carsten's editorship.

Behind the new driver, behind Partition Magic, behind your last settings modification, there's a magical technology. Carsten makes sure that the magic ends up in your lap.

Or was that the g-string?

A magical mix of art and science emanates from this talented man. He's knowledgeable in everything, it seems, as a good editor should be. Carsten is interested in computers, of course, and he's always fiddling with them; he builds his machines from scratch. You'd expect that from the chief honcho of a computer magazine.

But his longtime passion is photography. Carsten owns a Hasselblad 500, a rather expensive 2¼ × 2¼ format camera, with which he photographs portraits, landscapes, and textures. "I like to frame my prints to sort of hide the true identity of the subjects," says Carsten, who's been an avid photographer since the age of twelve.

He enjoys fine arts (especially drawing, sketching, and yes, creating computer graphics), reads a lot of books about "just about anything," and plays the guitar. If it's 2:00am, he's as likely to be tuning an E-string as tuning his config.sys. If he does have his hands on some unfortunate computer, it'll be sunrise before he's done with it.

Carsten likes to tinker. He likes to play with his operating systems, to move things around, to experiment and see what happens. Computers, guitars, cameras and sketch pads—they're all just an outlet for his creativity, and we should all be quite thankful that he didn't grow up on the wrong side of the tracks with a can of spray paint in his back pocket.

The pen is mightier than the Pentium

Carsten writes as expressively as he tinkers.

For starters, he's written the monthly *From The Editor* EDM/2 column since September 1996. He interviewed Brad Wardell, CEO of Stardock Systems, early in his editorship. He wrote a number of OS/2 book reviews for EDM/2, beginning in May 1994. Carsten has written about Java, Modula-3 (on OS/2, of course); he's written product reviews. His three-part articles, "Introduction to C Programming" and "Programmer's Editor Shootout: Visual SlickEdit 2.0 vs. Preditor 3.0 vs. RimStar Pro 4.0" have filled the EDM/2 pages, side-by-side with submissions from the other authors he has cajoled into contributing.

Carsten is especially proud of the articles he's presented in EDM/2 that were written by IBM staff, such as "ICAT: The New Remote Source-code Debugger for OS/2," penned by IBM employees Chris Matthews and Dave Evans. And he's just as proud that EDM/2 is "OS/2 Accredited," which means it has satisfied IBM as to certain quality criteria. "I know we're read inside IBM," says Carsten. "They pay attention to what we cover."

Two mens' vision, one man's image

EDM/2 (the /2 was put there to match OS/2) was started by Steve Luzynski, who ran it for five issues and then turned it over to Larry Salomon, Jr. Shortly thereafter, Carsten and Larry met online through an OS/2 newsgroup; Larry asked Carsten to help with the magazine. Carsten joined EDM/2 at Volume 2 Issue 3, and at first did book reviews and proofing. Larry ran the show until Volume 4 Issue 6; Carsten then took over.

"Larry and I both had this vision, that we wanted to create an online magazine as an amazing resource for OS/2," Carsten reminisced. "It was an exciting time. People were reading it, and we were scrambling for authors that really knew the OS/2 technology and could describe it in our online articles. Larry built it up, and I made it attractive. I designed the current

Carsten Whimster

EDM/2 logo with ColorWorks 2.0, and I give the magazine a unique and pleasing look by doing all the HTML markup by hand, using Visual SlickEdit."

So there's Carsten the technologist and Carsten the artist. He won an award for one of his visual creations: the often-seen animated Web image of a silver ball rolling forward on a checkered floor. "So many people copied it onto their own web pages, I was seeing it everywhere," Carsten says.

Carsten uses POV-Ray 2.2 for OS/2 for his ray-trace renderings (Version 3 is out now), and you can see more of his graphic creations on his personal web page. He's written a front-end for POV-Ray (email him if you want a copy) using his original success—the ball as an icon—and he uses it when he's designing web logos, buttons, animation and other "flashy web stuff."

He's also finishing up his own ray tracer.

Easy rider

Not everything about this man is technology or art. You know I like motorcycles because I've written about them before; I've owned my share of them, I've ridden them hither and yon, I've dumped them a few times. But Carsten's one up on me, with the road trip he took a few years ago.

Starting from Toronto (that's eastern Canada), he rode his Yamaha one-cylinder 1986 SRX 600 to Vancouver (that's the western edge of the country). Then he rode down to Los Angeles (another four digits of mileage), and back to Toronto. "A search for humanity!" implored this journalist. "A chance to study the philosophy of men, to ponder the open road, to meet all of mankind!"

"I just thought it would be fun," said Carsten.

He also likes to read.

"What kind of books?" I asked. "Everything," he said. "Fiction, nonfiction, computer books, photography books; I'm always reading."

That's *good*, I think to myself. You can't be an editor if you don't know what good writing looks like.

But can he sail a ship?

Carsten Whimster was born in Scotland on February 20, 1966, the son of an English father of Norwegian Viking descent and a mother of Danish Viking ancestry. His family moved to Denmark when he was three, and he moved to Canada when he was 16. Carsten stands 5'10", weighs 145 pounds and looks, well, with his blue eyes and brown hair, exactly like a Viking. Prince Valiant would have competition for the lovely Lady Aleta had Carsten been born a tad earlier. He resides in Ontario.

Carsten finished high school in Canada and studied mechanical engineering for three years (from '86 to '89). He worked for a few years after that (among other things, as a bartender at *The Phantom of The Opera*), and is currently a co-op student (alternating four months of study with four months of work) at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, where he studies Computer Science. He already holds a three-year "General Bachelor of Math Degree with Distinction" from that university, and is upgrading that degree to a four-year "Honours of Math in Computer Science" degree. Carsten hopes to eventually get a Masters in Computer Science, possibly at Stanford.

So how fast can he type?

Inside the computer on which he creates EDM/2, you'll find an Asus TX97E ATX motherboard with an AMD K6-233 ("Asus is one of the best motherboards available," says Carsten), 48 MB of memory, 1 GB and 3.2 GB Quantum IDE hard drives, an internal Iomega Zip Drive, an ATI Mach64 video card with 2 MB (he runs at 65K colors and 1024x768), a 17" monitor, 3Com 905 Ethernet card, Sound-Blaster 16, and a USRobotics 56K modem (which he doesn't use because this machine is networked to another, with a high-speed cable modem).

Carsten's first computer was a 386SX-16 with 3 MB of RAM. He ran Windows 3.1 on that old 386, but since it crashed a lot he looked around for something else. He heard about OS/2 2.0; on the day it was released, he hunted all over town to get a copy.

Subsequently, Carsten upgraded to version 2.1, then 3.0, and now has 4.0 installed (no fixpaks at this time; he tried fixpak 5 but had some video problems so removed it).

In addition to OS/2, Carsten has Linux installed on his machine. "I like what I've seen and heard of the NeXTStep interface, including its 'Docking Bar,' and you find it duplicated in Linux," Carsten tells me as we talk computerese. He also has Windows 95 (for games—especially *Command And Conquer* and *Quake*) and recently removed Windows NT ("I didn't really like or use it"). He monitors a few newsgroups, mostly oriented towards OS/2 and graphics.

The future of OS/2, Carsten says, seems somewhat dependent on IBM's OS/2-based WorkSpace On-

---

Resources and sites mentioned

Carsten Whimster's personal page, www.undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca/~bcrwhims

EDM/2 Magazine, www.edm2.com

3Com, www.3com.com

AMD (Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.), www.amd.com

Asus (ASUSTeK Computer Inc.), www.asus.com.tw

ATI Technologies Inc., www.atitech.ca

Hasselblad, www.hasselblad.com

Linux, many independent sites on the Internet, one is www.linux.org

NetRexx, www2.hursley.ibm.com/netrexx/netrexx.htm

POV-Ray, Persistence Of Vision Raytracer, www.povray.org

Quantum Corporation, www.quantum.com

SoundBlaster (Creative Labs, Inc.), www.soundblaster.com

Stardock Systems Inc., www.stardock.com

University of Waterloo, www.uwaterloo.ca

USRobotics, www.usr.com

Visual SlickEdit (MicroEdge, Inc.), www.slickedit.com

Zip Drive (Iomega Corporation), www.iomega.com

Demand. "We'll see what happens," he says thoughtfully.

No day is complete unless you've swiped a good idea

Putting together each monthly issue of EDM/2 is the same struggle faced by editors everywhere. Carsten has to chase down the authors that have promised him material. He has to proofread the material that's already submitted.

As I said, he hand codes every bit of the HTML. "No HTML editor?" I asked Carsten. "No. I put in every tag myself, to get the special look I want. It's just me and Visual SlickEdit."

While Carsten wasn't looking, I took a peek at EDM/2's HTML code to see some of his hand-coded creations. Indeed, he's got some tricks up his sleeve, such as his solution to the half-line spacing problem. The pages of EDM/2 *do* look better because of them. He sneakily puts in half-line spacing by using a one-by-one transparent pixel which he then allocates his true spacing requirement to via the image tag. Real cute, Carsten, and I not only stole your trick, I swiped your one-by-one transparent pixel, too.

We always knew it was OS/2

I asked Editor Whimster if he knew of counterparts to EDM/2 Maga-zine for other popular operating systems. After all, you wouldn't expect technologists to only gather around OS/2.

"No, I don't know of any," he replied. "They may be out there, but I haven't run into them. I think we're kind of unique in that way."

There are three main areas of interest on the EDM/2 site. First, of course, are the well-written articles and code samples dealing with computer and OS/2 technology. Second is the group of online courses that EDM/2 offers, in subjects such as C programming (Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced), the OS/2 Device Driver class taught by Timur Tabi ("One of our most popular; I'm still amazed at how many people are signed up"), and the planned courses in Java and NetRexx (NetRexx has Rexx syntax but compiles to Java byte code). Third is the online book store, which has quick links to all of the EDM/2 book reviews and a "shopping cart" feature (courtesy of Amazon Books—EDM/2 gets a small fee when you buy through the EDM/2 Bookstore) for purchasing the books that have been reviewed, recommended, are used by the online courses, or any other book on any subject.

"I've experimented a bit over the years," says Carsten. "I tried interviews, and I interviewed Brad Ward-ell of Stardock back in 1996. But that's not really the direction that our readers wanted us to go in, so we went back to the technology. That's really our purpose, and what we do best. When the readers are happy, I'm happy."

And what does Carsten like best about EDM/2? "It's a lot of fun, and my schedule is very flexible. I can sit down and write an article, and then spend the next two months chasing after people. It can get very routine at times, of course. It's hard to find people to help with the work, and there's a lot of it. But look what we're producing: one of the finest technical resources available anywhere for OS/2 developers. It's a very nice feeling to know that the articles and code we publish are having an impact on so much OS/2 software that ends up on people's machines. OS/2 is such a wonderful tool. Knowing that everything we do is making it stronger makes the occasional obstacle that much more fun to overcome."

Fun for you and for us too, Carsten. You're the creative genius, and we're all the better for it. You keep editing, and we'll keep reading. Three cheers for EDM/2! ◑

IBM at Wimbledon... with OS/2

A network of 60 IBM personal computers provides administrative support to the Club throughout the year. During The Championships, more than 150 desktop systems attached to IBM PC servers (including IBM ThinkPad notebook computers) are brought in to manage data entry and the Championships Information Service.

Among the key applications are the Championships Information Service (CIS), commentator and database servers running on IBM's operating system OS/2 Warp. The complete physical network is managed by IBM LAN Network Manager. This combination of IBM software products ensures a consistent and reliable service across the whole Wimbledon site. The solution also includes IBM 8250 and 8260 Multiprotocol Intelligent hubs, a Web site powered by IBM's RS/6000 Scaleable POWERParallel System (www.wimbledon.org), and plenty of IBM Global Services. Thin Film Technology computer screens are used in the tight confines of the Centre Court commentary positions. IBM's AS/400 supports the Club's administrative, financial, ticketing, and debenture systems. Thirty fast, efficient laser printers serve all the printing needs of the Championships Information Service including results bulletins, player biographies, and match statistics. The printers even produce the players' prize money checks.

Integrating data, still pictures, video, graphics and sound in a single multimedia application, DeskTop Wimbledon brings video-on-demand to The Championships. This is also available throughout the year in the Wimbledon Museum alongside CIS.

In effect, the technologies employed at Wimbledon showcase IBM's e-business solutions, the type of solutions that are seen in thousands of companies and organisations around the world. Private networks and intranets provide information on demand to different users. The Web site is used to display information about that organisation and is also used to sell goods and services. ◑

New and improved

compiled by Esther Schindler

It sometimes strikes me how, simultaneously, we have "no new OS/2 applications" and yet I manage to fill up two or three pages with application announcements, every month. Now, granted, some of these are comparatively trivial utilities—which have value only if you need them—but still, OS/2 is an awfully active zombie.

This month's haul has everything from vertical market applications (who else would tell you about them?), to screen savers, to OS/2 games. We're also beginning to see more "real" Java applications, which is a good thing.

If you're interested in writing a review of any of the applications you see listed here, send an email to reviews@possi.org, and Craig will set you right up. If *you* don't tell other OS/2 users if the software is worth the money… who will?

j-Chat

j-Chat is J&J's Java chat system. Both the j-Chat server and client run in Java 1.1.

Features of j-Chat include:
O Support for multiple hosts through IP addresses or aliases
O Support for an unlimited number of chat rooms for each host
O Access control to chat rooms through user id and password
O Unlimited (theoretically) number of users per chat room
O Client run from a Web page or as a standalone application.
O Dynamically updates lists of people in a room as they enter and leave Users can be in multiple chat rooms at the same time
O Logs generated of all chats in all rooms

On the server side, j-Chat has been tested with OS/2 Warp 4 (Java 1.1.4), and Windows NT 4.0 Server (ServicePak 3, Java 1.1).

As a client, j-Chat has been tested with Netscape Navigator 2.02 for OS/2 Warp with Java 1.1.4 support, Netscape Communicator or Navigator 4.03 with the Java 1.1 fix, and Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.

These are the only tested environments, but j-Chat should work on any Java 1.1 compatible JVM or JRE.

In Version 1.0, you configure the software by modifying several text files. A host file identifies the host names that the system should respond to. For each host, a room file lists the name of each room along with a boolean flag to identify whether the room is password protected. Each password protected room has a user ID and password file. An administration applet is planned for future versions of the system.

For more information and a demo, visit www.ceri-net.com/jjcomp/products/jchat/index.html

10 Room License $20, 20 Room License $35, Unlimited License $120 with a 10% discount for anyone who has purchased the J & J Utilities.

Available at BMT Micro.

PM TimeTracker 1.0

PM TimeTracker 1.0 is a small application for anyone who needs to keep logs of what his time is spent on. It's designed to be as unobtrusive as possible and to take up as little room on your desktop as feasible.

With PM TimeTracker, up to nine tasks can be defined and allocated to separate buttons on a taskbar. Each button can prompt for more information or log a predefined entry. Floating tool tips identify the definition of each button and how much time has been logged to the current task. Each task generates a log record that can be reported on from the built in report functions; the log files are in CSV format so it should be possible to load them into a spreadsheet.

Configuration dialogs allow the format of the main window to be changed, to be displayed horizontally or vertically, to float on top of other windows, to auto-prompt every X minutes (between the hours of Y and Z) for the current task.

This application was originally to be shareware but the author decided to release it as "email-ware" for personal use since it lacks the ability to print to printers; printing to a file works. PMTimeTracker has a registration code, but it's free to anyone who writes to ask for it.

Contact Trevor Hemsley at Trevor-Hemsley@dial.pipex.com or 75704.2477@compuserve.com. PM TimeTracker is available on ftp://hobbes.nmsu.edu, as tmtrak10.zip.

Yet another Screen Saver

PowerUtilities' Screen saver for OS/2 version 1.0 is ready for download.

PowerUtilities' Screen saver for OS/2 is a 32 bit screen saver for OS/2 with several animated displays in both GPI and DIVE mode. One module makes SSM support possible. The software can be found at www.powerutilities.no.

Run Consolidation Software

RunCon Version 1.0, a new run consolidation software package that provides transportation directors, logistics managers, and schedulers with an optimized solution for improving the control and effectiveness of vehicle fleets, is being introduced by Edgar Solutions.

RunCon helps automate the process of vehicle/driver trip consolidation and route assignment for a wide variety of multiple pick-up and delivery operations, such as package or product delivery, van and truck fleets for various services, and school and senior bus fleets. The RunCon package also helps fleet managers more effectively manage their resources by saving both scheduling and total run travel time, especially in situations of continual change.

RunCon features an easy-to-learn and use Windows based graphical user interface, which supports "point and click" methodology. RunCon provides cross-platform support for Microsoft Windows 95, Windows NT, and IBM OS/2 Warp. Support for Unix and Macintosh will be provided in a later release of the software.

RunCon is offered at three price levels depending upon the trip

capacity selected. For the single-user license, RunCon 100 is priced at $499, RunCon 250 at $999, and RunCon 500 at $1999. An Enterprise Edition site license is also available priced from $1200 to $5000 for up to 10 users.

For additional information, see the Web site www.edgar-inc.com.

GpfRexx

Gpf, the GUI Programming Facility, is a WYSIWYG Graphical User Interface builder for creating Presentation Manager (PM) applications for OS/2. REXX is a high level procedural language, provided with OS/2, that uses English-like commands to implement custom program logic. GpfRexx combines the easy to learn and use REXX language, with the ease of a What you See Is What You Get visual programming environment to greatly simplify PM programming. With Gpf, the designer simply paints the PM screens as they ought to appear and Gpf takes care of the rest, yet Gpf is much more than a simple screen painter or Dialogue Editor.

With Gpf, as windows, dialogues, and PM controls are created, the design hierarchy is defined. Navigation code, custom logic and context sensitive help are created and linked to objects as they are designed. From this point and click design environment, a new PM application or utility can be completed in a fraction of the time required using conventional design techniques.

Available at BMT Micro.

GpfRexx: $45. GpfRexx Tools Extension: $25. GpfRexx Pro (GpfRexx & Extensions): $65.

Galactic Civilization Gold

Stardock's Galactic Civilizations for OS/2 has reached another level. Designed from the ground up to take advantage of all of OS/2's powerful features, Galactic Civilizations Gold ($44.95) continues the rich Galactic Civ tradition by enhancing almost every part of the game and even adding scenarios that will allow people to play the surface of worlds and research brand new sets of technologies.

New features include:
O Larger galaxies. New Enormous class galaxy has over 1,500 quadrants!
O Many new technologies
O New star ships
O Multiple scenarios with their own unique technology trees
O Return of the rebels
O New alien race: "The Outsiders"
O Everything from the Galactic Civilizations II: Expansion Pack
O Everything from Shipyards 2
O Major enhancements to the AI
O New graphics all around
O Lend-Lease features to foreign governments
O World Civilization module (play on land or in space)

Nota Musica Sequencer 2.0

Johannes Martin Software-Entwicklung released version 2 of the OS/2 RealTime-MIDI sequencer, Nota Musica Sequencer. Among other new features, it now supports recording from non-MIDI instruments.

Nota Musica Sequencer, a MIDI-sequencer, uses OS/2 Warp's real-time MIDI interface to record and play MIDI files. Nota Musica Sequencer supports playback of MIDI files using a wavetable soundcard or a MIDI keyboard and recording from any MIDI device. It loads and saves MIDI tunes of types 0, 1, and 2 so you can play any MIDI file with OS/2.

Nota Musica Sequencer can also import WAV-files and convert them into MIDI-files, so you can record MIDI-files from any instrument. Using the Nota Musica notation software, you can edit and print the tunes you have recorded.

Nota Musica Sequencer supports the IBM VoiceType speech recognition software, which is shipped with OS/2 Warp 4. This enables you to control the sequencer without touching your mouse or keyboard. For example, you may record or playback MIDI tunes by giving voice commands while sitting at your MIDI instrument.

Nota Musica Sequencer is shareware. Visit www.teamos2.de/software/notamusica. Registered users of any version of Nota Musica Sequencer may upgrade for free.

PMTreeSize

Torsten Balle Koefoed (torsten.balle.koefoed@writeme.com) released PMTreeSize, available at http://hobbes.nmsu.edu/pub.

PMTreeSize is a tree-size tool for integration in XFolder (see www2.rz.hu-berlin.de/~h0444vnd/os2.htm). PMTreeSize can also be run from the command line, and a separate VIO version is also included in the package.

Masteroids

The venerable Asteroids clone for OS/2, Masteroids, by Komary Roman, has been updated to v1.1 and is available at Hobbes. No explanation is given for what's updated in this version, but it's the first update since August 1996.

TunnelWars

A demo of Greg Ratajik's OS/2 action arcade game is available.

TunnelWars is a side-scrolling shoot 'em up that demonstrates a massively multi-threaded game running on OS/2. Visit www.ratajik.net/TunnelWars for information and download. Full source code is also available.

Other OS/2 shareware/public domain software with source code is available at www.ratajik.net/OS2

jPadHD

jPadHD is a very simple personal database to save small text files and notes. It is written in Java to make it multi-platform and has built in functions for creating new folders and notes, searching notes, importing and exporting text files, splitting large text files to fit in the database, and simple printing. jPadHD can help organize notes and text data and make it easier to find your information when you need it!

jPadHD has been tested on OS/2 Warp 4 (JRE 1.1.4), Windows

NT 4.0 (JRE 1.1.6) , and Windows 95 (JRE 1.1.6). Requires Java run-time environment 1.1.1 or higher; recommend Java ver. 1.1.6 for best performance.

SM2ADDON for SearchManager/2

Steffen Siebert (siebert@logware .de) has updated his SearchMan-ager/2 AddOn DLL, which adds important features to IBM's Search-Manager/2:

○ Support of RMAIL, HTML, and gzipped files

○ Files can be ignored by file-extension

○ Format of some specific or all files in a directory can be speci-fied

○ Contains complete source

The DLL is free (though you need SM/2 to use it). The latest ver-sion is always available at: www.cs.tu-berlin.de/~siebert /sm2.html

The IBM SearchManager/2 (SM/2) is a very powerful tool. It makes it easy to find a document on your hard drive, when you have absolutely no idea where it is or how it's named. You can think of SM/2 as AltaVista for your hard disk. (In fact, AltaVista has released a similar program called "My Computer Pri-vate eXtension" but it only runs on Windows 95 and Windows NT.)

You'll find some product infor-mation on IBM's pages at www.software.ibm.com/data/ search/eyxn0mst.html. Unfortu-nately SM/2 is held secret by IBM Marketing, and even support is hard to get. Don't bother to search the Internet for fixes; just write to the support-staff on the CompuServe forum, IBMDES. (ǫ)

Shareware and freeware "top ten"

provided by Pete Norloff, OS/2 BBS

Here's the top ten downloads from the last 90 days on the OS/2 Shareware BBS.

IDEDASD.EXE, 120K, 5-01-98

IDE drivers for >8.4Gb disks. Includes additional documentation on removable media and support for caching file system support for removable media. Updated 27 April 1998.

BTOS2907.ZIP, 300K, 2-16-98

The BOOTOS2 program is a utility that allows you to build a BOOTable OS/2 V2, V3 or V4 system using an existing OS/2 V2 or V3 system. The BOOT system can be installed on either Floppy Disks or a Hard Disk Partition. v9.07.

OS2UNDOC.ZIP, 44K, 4-14-98

Undocumented Features of OS/2 (INF). This INF file collects a variety of information concerning undoc-umented APIs and features of OS/2.

DOSBOX.EXE, 135K, 3-13-98

Latest TCPIP fixes for DOS Sessions with Warp. Type DOSBOX /? at the command line to get instruc-tions on how to apply these fixes. This file is recom-mended for use with RealPlayer 5.0 for example.

OMNI546.EXE, 347K, 3-02-98

OMNI printer driver. OS/2 Warp 3.x / 4.x OMNI Printer driver v30.546 for HP, Epson, Canon and some others. Includes Deskjet drivers.

TAME334.ZIP, 105K, 3-25-98

TAME v3.34. Speeds multitasking of DOS applica-tions in Windows, OS/2, Windows 95, Windows NT, DESQview, Double DOS and many more.

OS2FAT32.ZIP, 164K, 4-28-98

Beta of Henk Kelder's FAT32 IFS (Installable File System) for OS/2. FAT32 is Microsoft's new filesystem for Win95 OSR 2.x and above, and having this IFS installed will allow OS/2 to deal with FAT32 partitions.

ASSOEDIT.ZIP, 70K, 4-23-98

Association Editor v1.6. Allows you to inspect or modify associations set for file types and file filters. You can add new associations, remove old ones and change defaults associations. Also, you can add new filetypes. Freeware.
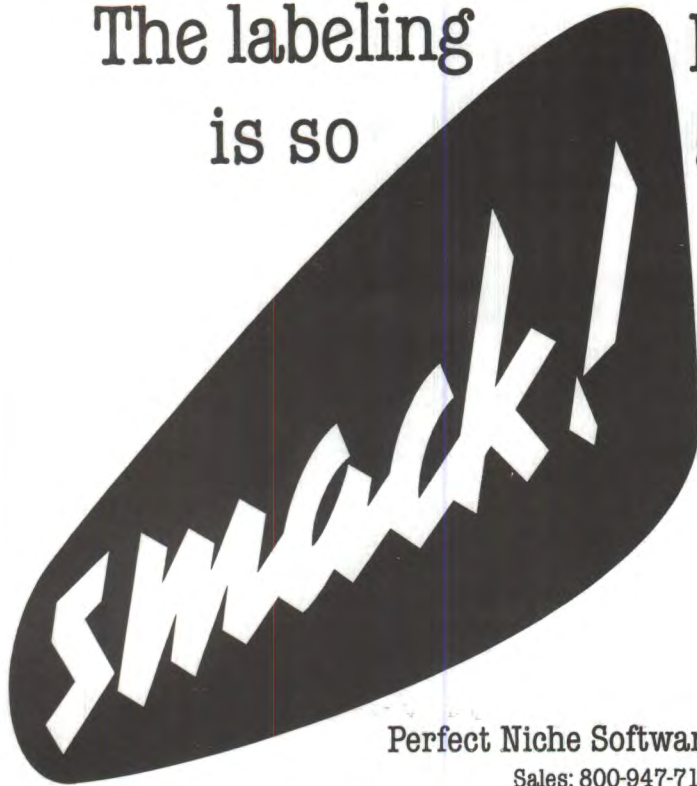
GATESNDC.JPG, 35K, 4-25-98

Bill Gates in Washington DC. Here's a photo of Bill Gates and Scott McNeally in Washington, DC. They say a picture is worth a thousand words….

WIN32OS2.ZIP, 797K, 4-22-98

The Win32-OS/2 project. (ǫ)

The Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc

The Phoenix OS/2 Society is a computer user group dedicated to OS/2. We have been publishing our award-winning magazine, *extended attributes* since August of 1994, and we have members all over the world.

Yes, this is a user group publication, and that sometimes shows; however, that's also an advantage, since you get real-world feedback about OS/2 and OS/2 products from other users, not just jaded, cynical journalists.

How useful will it be to join the Phoenix OS/2 Society if you aren't in Arizona? We see the Phoenix OS/2 Society as something akin to the National Geographic Society or the Smithsonian; while most members only see a magazine, you're actually a member of a society, and can participate in its activities when you happen to be in the area.

Even without activities that take place in Phoenix, Society membership includes product discounts that alone could make membership worthwhile. Taking advantage of one such discount could easily save you the entire cost of membership, giving you a "free" subscription.

Plus, the Society is prominent in the computing community. We are *already* heard by IBM; they listen to what we say. Several IBM executives get *extended attributes*. They don't get it for the "club news"—they use it to learn what OS/2 users really care about. And they respond to what they read.

You're not just getting a magazine. You're getting a voice.

If you would like to continue to receive the magazine, fill out the membership card in the center

Invites you to join

Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc
5515 N 7th St, Ste 5-133
Phoenix, AZ 85014-2585

Phoenix
OS/2
Society

*****   *********** MXD ADC
375   03/1999